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EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

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EAST GERMANY-CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Tho Signs Aid Agreements During Visits

The East Germans and Czechoslovaks rolled out the usual red carpet for PRG President Nguyen Huu Tho, who recently visited their countries on his annual pilgrimage for aid. Tho thanked his hosts for their past "fraternal" support and signed new agreements of "nonrefundable" economic aid for 1975. The actual terms for the aid were probably worked out during the recent visit of North Vietnamese Politburo member Le Thanh Nghi to East Berlin and Prague. The North Vietnamese handle negotiations for both themselves and for the PRG. No figures were given, but last year, Czechoslovaks claimed to be concerned over the "heavy" economic burden of their aid to Vietnam.

Both the East Germans and the Czechoslovaks soft pedalled the direct condemnation of the US that the PRG delegations leveled. The PRG group will soon visit Albania, where its anti-US revolutionary fervor will be matched

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Excellent Grain Harvest, Do Better!

The Czechoslovak government has announced that this year's grain harvest will be the largest ever. In a congratulatory speech at the Czech national harvest festival, party leader Husak warned against complacency. Citing the rising cost of imported commodities, Husak reiterated the party goal of making Czechoslovakia self-sufficient in cereals. The leadership is undoubtedly pleased with the results of this year's harvest since the regime relies on providing "the good life" to make it self palatable to the population.

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